

Consultation with Pasifika Mental Health Experts RE: Classification of Maui's Hook

Dates: 19/06/18 - 29/06/18

OFLC staff: Erica Brooks

Consulted with: Clinical researcher Denise Kingi-'Ulu'ave MA (Hons), PGDipClinPsych, Dr Monique Faleafa (CEO of Pasifika Suicide Prevention Program Le Va) and Professor Sir Mason Durie.

Summary: The consultation was opened due to discussions within the OFLC team as to whether or not the film content warranted an RP13 rating or an Unrestricted M rating. Expert opinions were asked for in order to best serve the public good with our classification decision. While Denise and Monique both expressed concerns with the first cut of the film (also viewed by Chief Censor David Shanks and Deputy Chief Censor Jared Mullen in Oct 2017), the film was recut after feedback on potentially injurious content, provided by the OFLC last year. As Sir Mason Durie was the only mental health professional to have viewed the final cut, his recommendation of an RP13 classification in order to safeguard younger viewers, was instrumental in deciding our final classification decision.

Comments from Sir Mason Durie: "*Maui's Hook* is about suicide and the trials endured by whanau after losing someone who was loved. It is a powerful film about a hikoi undertaken by bereaved families to Te Rerenga Wairua. There are no easy answers to explain the relatively recent increase in rangatahi suicide but *Maui's Hook* offers some guidance: despair is better revealed, than hidden; suicide will never be explained by a veil of silence; and the anguish of the bereaved will continue so long as there is a sense of shame or self-doubt. *Maui's Hook* shows that the aftermaths of suicide can be overcome not by being staunch or bravely resilient, but by allowing the loss to be shared so that the precursors of suicide might be better understood and loss can be transformed into hope.

After seeing the [final cut of the] film *Maui's Hook* I would be inclined to apply the RP 13 rating. The film traverses the several parameters of post-vention following suicide and does not dwell on the act of suicide, though does invite discussion on the anguish of whanau who have lost someone to suicide. That said, the overall tone is one of optimism and the resolution of unanswered questions. The final destination at Te Rerenga Wairua symbolises the 'laying to rest' of mixed and often troublesome emotions. In that respect there is a positive message that sharing thoughts and feelings with others who have endured similar losses can be an uplifting experience.

However, children under 13 might not be able to appreciate the optimism and resolution, and could read into the film mixed messages about suicide and its impacts."